U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Deployment Health
Support Directorate

DoD Deployment Health Risk Communication Working Group (DHRCWG)

Ms. Jodi Graul

Environmental Health Analyst/
DHSD Risk Communication Representative

DHRCWG Establishment

"**The Department of Defense (DoD) needs the capability to rapidly develop and disseminate health risk Communications and products to clinicians and servicemembers whenever deployment-related concerns arise or may arise**."

– Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr., MD, March 15, 2004.

Working Group Objectives

- To provide risk communication products and messages within DoD and the Tri-services on issues important to veterans, servicemembers, and their families.
- To provide risk communication products and information to clinicians and healthcare providers to address deployment-related concern with patients.
- Provide products and information for Commanders to address health-related concerns in theater.
- Provide products and messages to servicemember's families and veterans who have concerns related to deployment exposures or deployment heath issues.

Working Group Membership

Chaired by Deployment Health Support Directorate

<u>POCs</u>

- DoD Deployment Health Clinical Center (DHCC)
- Joint Staff
- Tri-services:
  - US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM)
  - Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC)
  - Air Force Institute for Operational Health (AFIOH)

Working Group Members cont.

- Military Vaccine Agency (MILVAX)
- Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Agency (AFMIC)
- Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS)
- Military Community and Family Policy, Educational Opportunities Directorate, UDUSD

To Accomplish Our Goals:

- Developing consistent health risk communications messages and products within DoD.
- Standardize flow of high quality messages and products across the Services.
- Archiving health risk communication messages and products for future use.
- Create universal access to the messages and products by healthcare providers, servicemembers/veterans, and families.

Scope of Products

- Occupational and Environmental Health
- Potential/actual deployment exposure scenarios and health concerns
- Mechanisms for dealing with emerging issues
- Areas that include barriers that interfere with deployed members ability to get necessary information/support

Criteria for Product or Message Development

- Be proactive – keep ‘feelers’ out
- Stay aware of deployment activities and emerging issues
- Identify areas with the need for well-developed communication effects
- Share “WHAT’S HOT”

Published Products

- Acinetobacter Fact Sheet for Servicemembers and their Families, December 8, 2004, http://www.pdhealth.mil/downloads/Acinetobacter_FS_120804.pdf.
- Acinetobacter Fact Sheet for Clinicians, February 15, 2005, http://www.pdhealth.mil/downloads/Acinetobacter_Fact_Sheet_for_Clinicians_Feb1505.pdf.
- US Army Depleted Uranium Aerosols Study & Human Health Risk Assessment, March 10, 2005, http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil.

Fact Sheets Under Development

- Tungsten/Tungsten Alloy - DHSD
- Reserve Components Healthcare – DHSD
- Flea Collar Hazards – DHSD
- Leishmaniasis - DHSD
- Permethrin Impregnated Uniforms– NEHC
- Anthrax – MILVAX

Work in Progress

- Deployment Health Risk Communication Product Compendium
  - "One stop shopping"

- Interface with the new DoD-VA Health Risk Communication Working Group
  - Speak with consistent positions and messages on important deployment health related issues

Key Messages

- Ensure the right information is delivered by right people at the right time.
- Provide comprehensive and consistent products and messages on important deployment health-related issues.
- Improve risk communication within DoD on issues important to our US servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Information, Information...

- **DoD Deployment Health Clinical Center** – http://www.pdhealth.mil
- **Deployment Health Support Directorate** – http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil/
- **US Center for Health Promotions and Preventive Medicine** – http://usachppm.apgea.army.mil
- **Navy Environmental Health Center** – http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/
- **Military HOMEFRONT** – http://www.militaryhomefront.org/portal/page?pageid=73,36305&_dad=itc&_schema=PORTAL
- **Military One Source** – http://www.militaryonesource.com/
- **Air Force Institute for Operational Health** – http://www.brooks.af.mil/afioh/.

Suggestions/Comments

Ideas for topics?

Issues of concern?